Question No. 290. Shri Ram Badan.

[Translation]

Cases Pending In Labour Courts In Uttar Pradesh

*290. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of industrial disputes pending in the Labour Courts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more Labour Courts in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) According to the Government of Uttar Pradesh 12,075 industrial disputes and 5,095 applications were pending as on 30-6-1991 in various Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts constituted by them. 741 industrial disputes and 886 applications were pending as on the same date with the Industriai-cum-Labour Court set up at Kanpur by the Central Government.

(b) to (d). Neither the Central Government nor the Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to set up any new Industrial Tribunal or Labour Court in Uttar Pradesh at present owing to financial constraints.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BADAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that only one Labour Court has been set up at Kanpur whereas a demand for setting up of Labour Courts in other districts of Uttar Pradesh such as Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Lucknow etc. is being made since long and people are facing many difficulties. Lot of money is also spent. Keeping it in view, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up Labour Courts in the districts of Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Meerut etc. so that the people of those districts may get some relief?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, as I have already said, as of now we do not have any proposal to set up new Labour Court.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BADAN: Mr. Speaker, there are so many cases of industrial disputes pending in Uttar Pradesh. I do not know why is the State Government or the Central Government not considering the case of setting up new Industrial Courts or new Labour Courts. May I know the reason for setting up Labour Court only at one place in the entire U.P. although the problem is still existing in other districts also. Is the Government not interested in solving this problem. I don't understand why the Government is not paying any attention to this problem. Will the Government consider setting up of new courts in the near future.

[English]

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member that the Labour Courts which are available in various parts of our country are very inadequate. As a result of this, a large number of pending cases are there. At the same time, the respective State Governments as well as the Central Government have got financial constraints as a result of which in spite of recognising the necessityof going for more labour courts, we are not in a position to open it now. We will consider it later.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: In view of the fact that the Minister recognizes two

facts-that large number of cases are pending in labour courts and there are workers in such a big State like UP where worker have lot of problems, they come to Kanpur and they have to wait for a long time to get justice these course having these factors in mind, will the Ministry think of giving priority at least of opening some courts at places like Gorakhpur or Varanasi so that people from eastern UP should not come all the way to Kanpur? Will he give priority in this case?

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: In fact, as of now, we do not have much of a problem at Kanpur as such because we have enough number of courts. But at other places we do have this problem. As I said, since we are having financial constraints, as of now we are not in a position to consider opening up new courts. In future, as the financial position improves, as I said we have recognised the necessity and we are keeping it in mind.

Industrial Bandh

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*291. SHRI P.M.SAYEED:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a call was given by certain trade unions for industrial bandh on November 29,1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government initiated action to stall the bandh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Some sections of the Central Trade Union Organisations had given a call for industrial strike on November 29,1991. Their main demands, inter alia, were that the Government should reformulate its economic and industrial policies in consultation with the Trade Unions, stop measure of privatisation of public sector units, take steps for early enactment of participation of workers in management bill etc.

(c) and (d). Government have constituted a Special Tripartite Committee with representaion of employers and Central Trade Unions to consider the impact of the New Industrial Policy and the problems of labour and other related matters. A meeting of the labour side of the Committee was specially called on November 17,1991 under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal to discuss the situation arising out of the call for the strike in the context of the new Industrial Policy. In that meeting, the Central Trade Union Organisations were assured that labour would be fully protected in the wake of the new industrial Policy. The Prime Minister had also assured in the Consultative Committee of the Parliament that the new Industrial Policy would not be anti-labour in character and would not result in human distress. In spite of the assurances at the highest level, some sections of the Trade Unions went ahead with the strike, Efforts were also made by the conciliation officers under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to prevent the strike particularly in public utilities. On November 29, 1991 there was only a partial strike in a very few sectors of the industries. The supply of essential commodities and services was maintained in spite of the partial strike. in a few States however, commercial services and transport were affected due to the strike.

SHRI P.M.SAYEED: The impact of the bandh which was organised by the political parties particularly in the State of Bengal and Bihar was only marginal. And it was felt that politiciasation was very much evident in the whole country. The Prime Minister himself has given the assurance that the new industrial policy is not going to hamper the interest of the workers. I just want to know from the hon. Minister, since he is the Chairman of the